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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE:

SUBJECT Communist Pressure in Beran Trial

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SUPPLEMENT

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1. In a stormy meeting of the National Front on 17 March 1947, the Communists asked the other members of the National Front to put pressure on the jury in the trial of the Protectorate Ministers Beran, Syrový and Havelka, so that the death sentence should be pronounced on Prime Minister Beran. Minister of Justice, Dr. Prokop Drtina objected to this and declared that he would not thus influence the course of justice.
2. Minister of Information, Dr. Václav Kopecký threatened that he would call a general strike, in case Beran is not sentenced to death. He followed this with recriminations against the "reactionaries" who support Western ideologies, and assailed President Truman as an imperialist. He warned that civil strife is unavoidable unless the other parties change their outlook and attitude in general.
3. Minister Drtina also declared that he frequently receives threatening letters and that he is convinced that they are of Communist origin.
4. Of the other ministers present, Fierlinger sided against the Communists, and Minister Hala maintained a neutral attitude.

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